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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
OAKLAND DIVISION**

IN RE COLLEGE ATHLETE NIL  
LITIGATION

Case No. 4:20-cv-03919-CW

**STIPULATION AND [PROPOSED]  
ORDER RE DEPOSITION PROTOCOL**

Judge: Hon. Claudia Wilken

1 WHEREAS, the parties in the above-captioned action are engaged in discovery and desire  
2 to depose witnesses as part of the discovery process;

3 WHEREAS, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 30(b)(4), “[t]he parties may  
4 stipulate . . . that a deposition be taken by telephone or other remote means”;

5 WHEREAS, the parties recognize there may be a variety of valid reasons for taking a fact  
6 deposition in this action by remote means;

7 WHEREAS, the parties seek to establish a protocol for the conduct of in person and remote  
8 fact depositions, to the extent that any depositions in this action are taken remotely; and

9 WHEREAS, the parties also seek to establish a protocol for the conduct of fact depositions  
10 where some attendees are in person and some are remote;

11 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED, by the parties hereto, through their  
12 undersigned counsel, and subject to the Court’s approval, that this Deposition Protocol govern the  
13 procedures for conducting fact depositions in this action:

14 **I. GENERAL GUIDELINES**

15 1. This Protocol will govern the taking of fact depositions in the above-captioned  
16 matter both in person and via remote means. The parties agree this Protocol will also govern  
17 depositions of nonparties under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 45 and the parties shall meet and  
18 confer in good faith regarding any modifications requested by such nonparties.

19 2. All depositions taken in this action—whether in person or remote—shall be  
20 conducted using videoconference technology, and all deponents shall be recorded by both  
21 stenographic means and video recording. The court reporter may be given a copy of the video  
22 recording of the deposition and may review such video recording to improve the accuracy of the  
23 written transcript. For remote depositions, the parties waive any objection to the deposition based  
24 on the fact that the court reporter is not physically present with the deponent or, if applicable, that  
25 the court reporter is not physically present in the same state as the deponent.

26 3. Testimony provided in remote depositions may be used in this action with the same  
27 force and effect as testimony provided in an in-person deposition. The parties agree not to object  
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1 to the use of the deposition testimony or video recording on the basis that the deposition was taken  
 2 and recorded remotely. The parties reserve the right to raise all other available objections to the  
 3 use of the deposition testimony in this action.

## 4 II. NOTICE

5 4. The party intending to notice a deposition of a party or a witness affiliated with a  
 6 party shall confer with opposing counsel in a good faith attempt to identify a mutually convenient  
 7 date and time for a party deposition before noticing the deposition. Unless otherwise agreed by  
 8 the noticing and defending party, the parties shall use their best efforts to notice depositions at  
 9 least fourteen (14) calendar days in advance of the deposition and cross notices at least seven (7)  
 10 calendar days in advance. However, for notices or subpoenas directed to an organization under  
 11 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 30(b)(6), the parties shall use their best efforts to issue deposition  
 12 notices—including a reasonably particular description of the matters of examination—at least  
 13 twenty-one (21) calendar days in advance of the deposition; best efforts shall be used to issue cross  
 14 notices—including a reasonably particular description of the matters of examination—fourteen  
 15 (14) days in advance.

16 5. When a party schedules a deposition of a non-party witness, the scheduling party  
 17 shall inform opposing counsel of any deposition date agreed to by the non-party witness within (1)  
 18 business day of that agreement. Nothing in this stipulation prevents opposing counsel from  
 19 objecting to the date agreed to by the party and non-party witness for whatever reason.

20 6. Deposition notices may be served electronically on all parties.

21 7. The decision to take a deposition remotely shall, subject to the terms of this  
 22 Protocol, belong to the party noticing the deposition.

23 8. If a party notices a deposition to occur in person, but another party believes  
 24 circumstances warrant taking the deposition remotely, or vice versa, the parties shall confer in  
 25 good faith to resolve the issue. Disputes that cannot be resolved through the meet and confer  
 26 process or within a reasonable timeframe shall be decided by the Court.

1           9.       If a party intends to cross-notice a deposition of a nonparty and disagrees with the  
2 noticing party's election to proceed remotely or in person, the parties shall confer in good faith to  
3 resolve the issue. Not all parties need be present in person if either of the parties elects to proceed  
4 with a cross-noticed deposition of a nonparty in person. To the extent any party elects to proceed  
5 remotely for a deposition of a nonparty, that party must comply with the applicable technological  
6 provisions set out in Part IV.

7           10.      All notices of deposition and nonparty deposition subpoenas served in this matter  
8 for remote depositions shall describe the remote means of taking the deposition, including (a) that  
9 the deposition will be taken by remote means; (b) the court reporting service the party plans to use  
10 to record the deposition (the "Designated Court Reporting Service"); (c) the videoconference  
11 platform the party plans to use for the deposition (i.e., Zoom or a platform with similar  
12 functionality); and (d) that the deposition will be recorded by stenographic means and video  
13 recording. If any of information identified in (a) through (d) is accidentally omitted from a  
14 deposition notice or deposition subpoena, this shall not be cause to render the notice or subpoena  
15 ineffective. The deposition notices and nonparty deposition subpoenas must also otherwise  
16 comply with the notice requirements of Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 30(b) and 45 (when  
17 applicable).

18           11.      The noticing party shall provide any non-party deponent with a copy of this  
19 Protocol with the notice of deposition or subpoena for any deposition, whether in person or remote.

20           12.      The parties are not required to cross-notice the deposition of their own current or  
21 former employees, or of any employees or former employees of their respective co-plaintiffs or  
22 co-defendants.

23           13.      In the event of an in-person deposition, unless otherwise agreed, depositions will  
24 occur in a city chosen by the deponent, reasonably located at counsel's office or within 100 miles  
25 of where the deponent resides, is employed, or regularly transacts business in person.

26           14.      Unless the deposition occurs remotely, the party noticing the deposition shall secure  
27 a room for the deposition that will accommodate the deponent, the court reporter, the videographer,  
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counsel for the parties, and counsel representing the deponent. The noticing party shall also secure two “breakout rooms” of reasonable size for the noticing party and the defending party.

### **III. COURT REPORTER AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH**

15. For all depositions—whether in-person or remote—the party taking the deposition shall ensure that other parties are able to observe the deposition via a video conference platform. The party taking the deposition will ensure that information regarding how to access the video conference platform (e.g., hyperlink to Zoom conference room) is provided to all parties within a reasonable amount of time prior to the deposition (but not less than 24 hours).

16. The Designated Court Reporting Service will be the host of the videoconference for each deposition whether in-person or remote.

17. It will be the responsibility of the party noticing the deposition to ensure that the Designated Court Reporting Service is aware of, capable of complying with, and agrees to comply with this Protocol.

18. The court reporter shall be permitted to administer the oath and record the deposition, and the parties waive any objection to the qualifications of the court reporter before whom the deposition is taken, so long as the court reporter is qualified to administer the oath and record depositions in federal court within the district in which the court reporter is physically located at the time of the deposition.

19. The party noticing the deposition bears the costs of the Designated Court Reporting Service, with the exception of copies of transcripts or video recordings.

### **IV. TECHNOLOGY AND SETTING**

20. Any deposition shall use a platform and system(s) that comply with all requirements of this Protocol, including the ability to provide high-quality and reliable video and audio streaming to all participants.

21. To host a deposition, a deposition vendor must have implemented adequate security measures to ensure the confidentiality of the deposition. These security measures include using

1 tools such as a “virtual waiting room” that allows the court reporter to admit only individuals  
2 authorized to attend the deposition.

3 22. If another party raises concerns with the platform and system(s) selected by the  
4 noticing party for any deposition, the parties agree to meet and confer in good faith to resolve those  
5 concerns. The noticing party shall bear the costs of the deposition vendor.

6 23. If requested, the Designated Court Reporting Service shall provide a demonstration  
7 of the technology being used for the deposition to the deponent and their counsel. To the extent a  
8 cost is incurred for such demonstration, the party requesting the demonstration shall bear the cost.  
9 If such a demonstration is not requested and a deponent or the deponent’s counsel encounters  
10 issues that reasonably could have been covered in such a demonstration, any time spent resolving  
11 the issue shall not count as time on the record for purposes of any time limitations on the  
12 deposition.

13 24. At the beginning of any remote deposition, the court reporter must confirm: (a) that  
14 they can hear all participants; (b) that all participants can hear each other and the court reporter;  
15 and (c) that the platform being used to share exhibits is functioning and all participants can see any  
16 documents shown. The time spent on such confirmations will not be on the record.

17 25. The parties will work cooperatively to address and troubleshoot technological  
18 (including audio or video) issues that arise during the deposition and make such provisions as are  
19 reasonable under the circumstances to address such issues. This provision shall not be interpreted  
20 to compel any party to proceed with a deposition where the participants are unable to hear or  
21 understand each other. Time spent dealing with technical difficulties will not be counted against  
22 any applicable time limits for the deposition. If technical difficulties arise during the taking of a  
23 remote deposition, and there is no technical specialist available during the deposition, counsel for  
24 the parties must meet and confer as soon as is practicable, by telephone or other means, to  
25 determine whether the remote deposition can proceed or should be continued to a future date. If  
26 technical difficulties arise that make the completion of a remote deposition impracticable, counsel  
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1 for parties and the deponent shall resume the remote deposition at a mutually convenient  
2 opportunity within a reasonable period of time.

3 26. For remote depositions, the deponent is responsible for locating a private, quiet  
4 space in which to participate in the deposition without interruption. All the deponent's  
5 communication devices, including mobile phones, other than the device hosting the video  
6 conferencing platform used by the Designated Court Reporting Service for that deposition, must  
7 be turned off or removed from the location of the deposition. The parties agree that no person  
8 shall be permitted to be physically present in the room with the deponent, other than counsel for  
9 the deponent or counsel for the parties.

10 27. It shall be the responsibility of the deponent and their counsel to ensure that the  
11 deponent has adequate equipment (e.g., computer, webcam, microphone), internet access, and  
12 bandwidth necessary to participate in a video deposition without interruption. Other than the  
13 applications required to conduct the deposition and view exhibits, the deponent shall not have any  
14 other applications open or running on the electronic device being used for the deposition.

15 28. Any public chat function available on the video conference platform will be  
16 enabled, but any private chat functions shall not be used and shall be disabled, if technically  
17 possible.

#### 18 **V. ATTENDANCE AND COMMUNICATIONS WITH COUNSEL**

19 29. The deponent, court reporter, videographer, counsel for the parties, party  
20 representatives, and counsel representing the deponent may attend depositions. Counsel not  
21 examining the deponent and party representatives shall have the option to attend for observational  
22 purposes remotely, even for depositions that are otherwise in person.

23 30. Attendees of any in-person deposition shall use their best efforts to advise the party  
24 providing or arranging the deposition space of their intention to attend an in-person deposition at  
25 least seven (7) calendar days before the deposition is scheduled to take place. In particular, if a  
26 party wants to have an individual attend a deposition, and that individual does not have permission  
27 to view certain categories of confidential documents under the protective order in this case, that  
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1 party will use its best efforts to inform the party taking the deposition of this fact as soon as possible  
2 prior to the deposition.

3 31. At the start of a remote deposition, all individuals in the same room as the deponent  
4 shall identify themselves on the record. If another person enters the room where the deponent is  
5 located, the deponent or the deponent's counsel shall immediately notify the deposing counsel of  
6 the additional persons in the room.

7 32. For remote depositions, the deponent, court reporter, counsel examining the  
8 deponent, and counsel representing the deponent shall be visible to all other participants and their  
9 statements shall be audible to all participants at all times while on the record. If the video or audio  
10 feed of these persons is lost, the deposition will be suspended and go off the record until resolved.  
11 All other remote participants shall make their presence known to all other participants, but they  
12 shall keep their microphones on mute and video turned off unless and until they wish to speak and,  
13 after having spoken, they shall go back on mute with video turned off.

14 33. No individual shall engage in a private communication, including through text  
15 message, electronic mail, handwritten notes, hand gestures, or the chat feature in the  
16 videoconferencing system, with the deponent while the deposition is on the record. In the event  
17 counsel intends to initiate a private communication with any deponent for the purpose of  
18 determining whether a privilege should be asserted, counsel shall state their intention on the record  
19 before initiating such communication and then the deposition shall go off the record while the  
20 private communication regarding privilege is undertaken. Nothing in this paragraph is intended  
21 to alter any local or federal rules governing communications with witnesses during a deposition.

22 34. For remote depositions, the official video record of the deposition will be of the  
23 deponent's video feed only. The video feeds of any other participant will not be part of the official  
24 record, nor used for any purpose at trial. However, a video record of any attorney questioning the  
25 deponent and any attorney representing the deponent in person at the same location as the deponent  
26 shall be maintained by the Designated Court Reporting Service for not less than 12 months and  
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1 may be requested and used in any proceeding concerning alleged interference or impropriety in  
2 the deposition. No video recordings of any other participant shall be made.

3 35. During breaks in a remote deposition, the parties may use virtual breakout rooms  
4 provided by the Designated Court Reporting Service. The noticing party shall make all reasonable  
5 efforts to select a Designated Court Reporting Service that provides breakout rooms and shall, if  
6 necessary, hire a technician to facilitate with breakout room assignments. Conversations in the  
7 breakout rooms shall not be recorded. The breakout rooms shall be established by the Designated  
8 Court Reporting Service prior to the deposition and shall be controlled by the Designated Court  
9 Reporting Service. If, due to a technological issue, mistake, or any other reason, a participant has  
10 been placed in the breakout room of an opposing party, that participant shall immediately identify  
11 themselves and leave the breakout room.

12 36. The employees of the Designated Reporting Service may attend the deposition for  
13 which they are designated to prepare a transcript of the deposition, video record the deposition,  
14 troubleshoot any technological issues that may arise, administer virtual breakout rooms, assist in  
15 displaying or providing exhibits, or any other reason reasonably related to the conduct of the  
16 deposition.

## 17 VI. EXHIBITS

18 37. For in-person depositions, deposing counsel shall supply hard copies of all exhibits  
19 they intend to use during the deposition, including exhibits that were previously designated in prior  
20 depositions. Deposing counsel shall have sufficient copies of each exhibit to provide a copy to (i)  
21 the deponent; (ii) defending counsel; (iii) the court reporter; and (iv) counsel for all other parties  
22 who have timely notified noticing counsel of their intent to attend the deposition in person, but in  
23 no event shall deposing counsel be required to provide more than nine (9) copies of any exhibit.  
24 Unless otherwise agreed by the parties, no exhibit-sharing platform shall be required for an in-  
25 person deposition. However, for in-person depositions where some counsel are participating  
26 remotely, the examining counsel shall clearly identify the exhibit when it is first shown to the  
27 deponent and read the beginning bates number when available.

1           38. For remote depositions, deposing counsel may supply hard copies or transmit  
2 exhibits through an exhibit sharing platform provided by the Designated Court Reporting Service  
3 or via the public chat feature of the deposition videoconferencing platform.

4           39. For remote depositions where deposing counsel elects to supply hard copies,  
5 deposing counsel shall send physical copies of the documents that may be used as exhibits during  
6 the deposition in sealed packages to (i) the witness; (ii) defending counsel; and (iii) the court  
7 reporter. The deposing counsel shall make all efforts to have the documents arrive to the recipients  
8 at least 24 hours prior to the start of the deposition. All counsel receiving the documents shall send  
9 deposing counsel an email confirming their receipt of the package. For remote depositions where  
10 deposing counsel elects to transmit exhibits through an exhibit sharing platform (as described in  
11 paragraph 38), the deponent and their counsel must then be provided with a reasonable opportunity  
12 to print those documents (time that will not be counted on the record) before they are used in the  
13 deposition, if they elect to do so. If they elect to do so, the deponent and their counsel should not  
14 discuss the document before the deponent is asked questions about it on the record, and the  
15 deponent should not review the document off the record without the agreement of deposing  
16 counsel.

17           40. If deposing counsel elects to transmit exhibits through an exhibit sharing platform,  
18 the exhibits need not be provided to the deponent or counsel for all parties before they are shown  
19 to the deponent. The method used to share the documents must allow the deponent and counsel for  
20 all parties to review the exhibits independently and in their entirety after they are introduced.

21           41. All documents marked as exhibits shall be attached to the original transcript and  
22 retained with the original transcript. Copies of exhibits may be attached to copies of the transcript  
23 where the party ordering the transcript pays for the costs of copying those exhibits.

24           42. If a deponent desires to take notes during the deposition, it will be handwritten on  
25 paper provided by the deponent. If the deposing counsel desires to have those notes made an  
26 exhibit to the deposition record, they will be shown via video on the record to deposing counsel  
27 for examination and questioning and then electronically scanned and emailed to (a) defending  
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1 counsel; (b) the court reporter for inclusion in the record; and (c) counsel for any other parties  
2 attending the deposition (including deposing counsel) before the conclusion of the deposition. The  
3 time spent scanning and emailing the notes will not be on the record.

4 43. If defending counsel is not counsel for a party in this action, they shall return all  
5 hard copies of documents marked at any level of confidentiality that originated from deposing  
6 counsel for purposes of the deposition to deposing counsel at the conclusion of an in-person  
7 deposition or, for a remote deposition, within seven (7) calendar days following the deposition.  
8 For a remote deposition, if the deposing counsel elects to supply hard copies pursuant to paragraph  
9 39, deposing counsel shall include a pre-paid return shipping label in the package of documents  
10 sent to defending counsel of any nonparty prior to the deposition to facilitate the return of the  
11 documents.

12 44. For a remote deposition, deposing counsel may elect to provide documents to each  
13 recipient in multiple sealed envelopes, organized in a manner as they see fit. If so, the recipients  
14 shall not open any sealed envelope until instructed to do so during the deposition. Such envelopes  
15 shall be marked in some manner to facilitate recognizing which envelope to open (e.g., numbers,  
16 letters, descriptive terms). Any sealed envelopes that were not opened during the deposition shall  
17 be returned, including by defending counsel for a party in this action, to deposing counsel within  
18 seven (7) calendar days after the conclusion of the deposition in their unopened and sealed state.

19 45. To the extent possible, counsel for the parties agree to number deposition exhibits  
20 consecutively from deposition to deposition taken by a party. For example, if plaintiffs use  
21 Exhibits 1 to 5 in their first deposition, then the second deposition taken by plaintiffs may begin  
22 with Exhibit 6.

23 46. In accordance with Local Rule 30-2(b)(3), to the extent practicable, any exhibit  
24 which is an exact duplicate of an exhibit previously numbered must bear the same exhibit number,  
25 regardless of which Party is using the exhibit. Any new document, or any version of any exhibit  
26 which is not an exact duplicate, must be marked and treated as a different exhibit bearing a new  
27 exhibit number.



1 Confidential NCAA Member Financial Data, Highly Confidential Billing Records, Conference  
 2 Strictly Confidential, Network Strictly Confidential Discovery Material or any other  
 3 confidentiality designation permitted under the Protective Order (or any future amendments  
 4 thereto) (a) on the record during the deposition or (b) within the applicable twenty-one (21)  
 5 calendar day period, by written notice to all parties, specifying the page and line numbers of the  
 6 deposition transcript that are subject to the designation. A party may challenge another party's  
 7 designation pursuant to the Protective Order.

8 51. Upon receipt of errata and confidentiality designations, the court reporter shall  
 9 reproduce the final transcript to indicate which pages include testimony that has been designated  
 10 as "CONFIDENTIAL," "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL—COUNSEL ONLY," "HIGHLY  
 11 CONFIDENTIAL NCAA MEMBER FINANCIAL DATA—LEAD COUNSEL ONLY,"  
 12 "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL BILLING RECORDS—OUTSIDE COUNSEL ONLY," "HOUSE  
 13 CSC – OUTSIDE LITIGATION COUNSEL ONLY," or "HOUSE NSC – OUTSIDE  
 14 LITIGATION COUNSEL ONLY."

#### 15 **IX. OTHER MATTERS**

16 52. An objection by one party or, in depositions of third parties, by deponent's counsel  
 17 is sufficient to preserve the objection for all parties and counsel shall avoid repeating objections  
 18 already preserved.

19 53. All parties shall abide by the applicable federal and local rules and precedents  
 20 regarding objections.

21 54. Each party is responsible for ordering from the court reporter any desired transcripts  
 22 or video recordings of depositions. All parties shall bear their own costs for such transcripts or  
 23 video recordings.

24 55. Absent an agreement to the contrary or upon good cause shown, within thirty (30)  
 25 calendar days of receipt of the final transcript, the deponent or the deponent's counsel shall forward  
 26 any errata to (i) the parties; and (ii) the court reporter, who will promptly notify all counsel of its  
 27 receipt.

1           56.     The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Local Civil Rules of the Northern District  
2 of California, and any other governing laws control all matters not expressly addressed herein.

3           57.     The parties may agree on ad hoc modifications to this Protocol to accommodate the  
4 needs of a particular deponent or to resolve any issues that arise regarding a particular deposition.  
5 Such modifications may be agreed in writing or memorialized on the record at the deposition.

6           IT IS SO STIPULATED.  
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1 Dated: December 13, 2022

Respectfully Submitted,

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**ATTESTATION PURSUANT TO CIVIL LOCAL RULE 5-1(i)(3)**

Pursuant to Civil Local Rule 5-1(i)(3), the filer of this document attests that concurrence in the filing of this document has been obtained from the signatories above.

/s/Rakesh N. Kilaru  
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**[PROPOSED] ORDER**

PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED,

DATED: December \_\_, 2022

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The Hon. Claudia Wilken  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE